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I.

RESUSCITATION BY OXYGEN GAS FROM
APPARENT DEATH BY DROWNING.*Letter 1.—To the Editor.**Cambridge (Md.), March 31, 1829.*

DEAR SIR,—At the close of my chemical amusements of this winter, an accident occurred which gave rise to an experiment whose result deserves, I think, to be classed among the subjects of your invaluable Journal. It is one on the efficacy of Oxygen Gas in an extreme case of Asphyxia.

A favorite young beagle hound had fallen into a neighbor's cellar full of water, and was drowned. How long he lay there, (which is a prominent point in the case,) can only be conjectured from the following facts:—He was heard flouncing and yelping in the waters; and the family believing he was a mad dog, did not venture in to his relief until their negro man returned from a ride of two miles, on which he had been sent shortly before the accident, when they supposed he had got out, as he had been long silent; but on searching, he found him lying dead under the water, and dragged him out. Finding it was my dog, he informed my servant, who obtained a wheelbarrow and brought him home, and then went in quest of me. When I arrived, with some gentlemen who accompanied me to witness

the experiment which I proposed, we found the dog's body and limbs so cold, hard, and inflexible, that, taking him by the feet, he was turned over as a block with four pegs attached to it.

Having at hand some jars of gases, and fortunately one of oxygen, which I had recently prepared for a similar experiment with smaller animals to be placed under asphyxia, from carbonic acid gas, but not having executed my design, I filled a large bladder with the oxygen, not diluted with any portion of nitrogen, because I wished to produce the greatest possible excitement in a case so desperate. I attached to the bladder a small brass stop-cock with a long beak, and infused into his lungs, by a violent pressure of the bladder, a copious dose of the gas; upon which he instantly made a convulsive and solitary yelp, to the full pitch of his usual and shrill voice in the chase. The dose was repeated with the same effect until the gas was consumed. He was placed by the fire in warm blankets, friction constantly applied, and a strong dose of diluted volatile ammonia forced into the stomach. His body and limbs became relaxed; his respiration short and rapid, with subsultus tendinum.

This experiment commenced at one o'clock, and at eleven that night he raised himself on his feet, and made a few feeble steps. The

next morning he left his bed in the kitchen, and walked to his kennel, a distance of fifty yards; but during the second and also the third day, he suffered under a total anorexy. I ordered an enema of sulphate of magnesia, and the following night tinct. opii eleven drachms. On the fourth day he took a small portion of meat; on the fifth and sixth days he showed the marks of excessive atrophy; in fact, his vital functions are restored, but I am candid to say, those of the animal will, I fear, never be fully regained.

I have been minute with this case, not from a belief that it is the first instance of the revival from asphyxia by oxygen gas, for I have read of one, and one only, and that arose from carbonic acid gas inhaled for experiment, by a Professor Higgins, in Europe; but I have never met with a case of recovery from apparent death by drowning. If any exist, they are rare, and it is certainly a subject worthy of attentive prosecution.

I have the honor to be yours, very respectfully,

JOSEPH E. MUSE.

In answer to a request that the history of the case might be continued, the editor received the following:—

Letter 2.

Cambridge (Md.), April 24, 1829.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your inquiry, I am gratified to be enabled to state that my experiment in the case of asphyxia has become more perfect. In the course of eight or ten days after my communication to you, the health of the subject began to improve rapidly, and his *appetite, repletion, and vivacity*, now indicate a thorough renovation of the animal functions; which

candor had compelled me to declare I did not then anticipate.

One other incident may be worthy of notice,—that his voice, which was naturally sharp and shrill, has astonishingly altered into the full and coarse, though his cough resulting from the accident, has, with every other symptom of disease, wholly disappeared.

Allow me to acknowledge my obligations for the respectful sentiments you have done me the honor to express in your last and on former occasions; which, in truth, I cannot too highly appreciate, as coming from the founder of a Journal which is dispensing the fruits of science to an ungrateful community, and which, though suffered to expire, will have erected, by its kindly influence on the moral condition of man, a monument imperishable.

I am, dear Sir, truly and respectfully yours,

JOSEPH E. MUSE.*

II.

ON THE CURE OF NEURALGIA IN GENERAL.

We reprint the following extract from Dr. Johnson's analysis of M'Culloch on Neuralgia, because it contains much practical light on a subject of universal interest. The increased frequency of neuralgic diseases of late years, has been already adverted to; the mode of treatment, therefore, which has been found successful by distinguished practitioners, cannot be made too generally known. We recommend the following remarks to the very particular attention of our readers.

* From Silliman's Journal.

IF our author be right in considering neuralgia as a disease dependent on a constitutional cause, however prominent may be the local symptoms,—in short, if it be a mode of intermittent fever, or fundamentally of the same nature, it is natural that the same system of treatment should be enjoined. To this he was led, more than twenty years ago, from theory, and is now confirmed in the propriety of the system by practice and observation. This plan of treatment has never failed him in recent cases, and has often succeeded in those which were of long standing. In this chapter, our author has been unavoidably led into considerable repetition, as the principles of cure, and even many of the individual remedies, have been broached or detailed in preceding chapters, more especially when treating of intermittent. It will not be necessary for us, however, to go much into the minutiae of the treatment; since it was of infinitely more importance to connect the etiology and pathology of these varieties of disease, than to dwell on their management when once recognized.

The first remark, and it is a very important one, is this,—that the neuralgiæ often disappear without medicines, by a spontaneous effort of the constitution,—while they are also truly cured by circumstances that are not noticed, and to which credit is not given. This explains the reputation which has been gained by particular modes of cure, which were, in reality, either nugatory or injurious in themselves. Hence improper practices are continued from mistaken observations. Particular periods of life, as the climacteric in males, and cessation of the catamenia in females, often root out old and inveterate neural-

gic affections, that had defied all remedies. The most frequent of the real, though little observed causes of cure, however, will be found in change of air, and of general habits of life,—which, by the bye, is a direct remedy of great power, though often recommended to the patient when the practitioner is tired out with fruitless attendance. The effects of moral impressions are underrated and ridiculed. A change of physicians, or the acquisition of a new and strong confidence in a new and reputed person, often effects a cure where the remedies prescribed had little or nothing to do in the business.

“Hence an actual benefit often derived from empirical remedies and empirics, or from physicians of popular if false reputation, or of peculiar, perhaps insolent or coarse manners,—an influence extending widely over all the nervous disorders, of which so many occur from the general cause of disease which includes the subjects of this essay.” 370.

This, in reality, is the cure by charms. This is the reason why quack medicines,—the composition of which, being unknown, is more respected,—effect cures, when the same medicines fail in ordinary prescription.

“Hence that universal confidence in substances and formulæ, and numbers and quantity; and hence especially that enormous consumption of empirical remedies,—compounds found in every pharmacopœia, but divested of all their virtues under this form, because separated from the mystery and the incantation. The physician who attempts to reason with his patient on the effects and utility of his remedies, pays a most unmerited compliment to human reason;

and while he will fail to influence, he will not be very long in discovering that he will shortly have no patients to enlighten or to cure. With the loss of the mystery, the merit is at an end; and he who proves himself to be the true philosopher and physician, is precisely the man who will never be trusted." 371.

This is a melancholy picture, but we fear it is too true. It may account for the immense reputation of a living practitioner, who never reasons or says a civil word to his patients, but drives them from his presence, all having and all knowing beforehand, that they will have the same prescription or box of pills, whatever be the nature of the malady!* Dr. M. relates a case of tic douloureux, which he had long treated in vain with arsenic and other remedies, but which instantaneously vanished before the solemn gibberish of an old woman, celebrated for the possession of a charm against toothach.

We know that intermittents are sometimes cured by giving a powerful anodyne just before the expected paroxysm, which breaks the chain and interrupts the morbid process. The same is sometimes done in neuralgia, and ought not to be neglected, though they are not the real remedies in this class of maladies.

"But the chief and the most energetic remedies in neuralgia, be the form what it may, are the tonics; and of these, as in intermittent, the most efficacious are bark and arsenic. Each, in its class, may stand at the head of a list which it is fruitless to enumerate, since it is so well known to even every druggist; nor need I

repeat what relates to the mode of using these, since it is precisely the same as in intermittent fever. That there is any one vegetable tonic more efficacious than bark, or differing in the mode of action, as far as we now know these remedies and their powers, I am inclined to doubt, but not to deny that such do exist, since I consider that we are very far from having exhausted the medicines of the vegetable kingdom; so far, indeed, as rather to be in an absolute infancy of knowledge on this subject.

"While with bark as the type, the physician may command the whole range of astringents, aromatics, and bitters: he is also bound to try one where another fails; since thus may it possibly be discovered, even that what is most efficacious in common intermittents may not be most so in the neuralgiæ, differing as they do in respect to the local action in the latter. But as I can, on this subject, say nothing of any great value from my own experience, I must be satisfied with having pointed out the leading principle and the road to be followed; as I need, also, do no more than suggest those combinations, whether of these vegetable substances themselves, or of the same with narcotics, the occasionally superior value of which in intermittent is well known.

"If arsenic be admitted as the type of the metallic remedies, it is equally easy for the physician to command the whole range of these,—so well known, that I could add nothing respecting their powers,—while I much suspect that very fanciful values have often been attached to some of them, from that common mecha-

* Abernethy, no doubt, and the blue pill.

nical system which looks more to variety of medicines than to a knowledge of diseases. Much has indeed been lately said respecting the especial value of the carbonate of iron, as it is generally called, in the common Neuralgia (Tic); while in reality it has been administered as a merely empirical remedy, and without system. In my own experience, I had resorted to it long before these recommendations, both in intermittent and neuralgia, but without discovering that it possessed any collateral merit above arsenic, while far less generally efficacious as a remedy. But, on all these remedies I shall be very glad to hear of the experience of others, since I have wanted both temptation and opportunity to do them justice. As to the value of arsenic compared to bark, I can only repeat what I said formerly, that I have found it more generally efficacious in neuralgia, while it has appeared less so in intermittent; often acting almost like a charm on the pain, and even in cases of many years' duration. But on this also I am ready to be corrected; as I am satisfied that the experience of no one individual, even were it far greater than mine has been, is sufficient to decide on subjects of this nature." 377.

Dr. M. makes no distinction, as to treatment, in the different forms of the disease,—with the exception of sciatica, in which he has not had much experience. A medical friend, residing in a district noted for this disease, informs our author that he has derived the most marked advantage from this remedy in numerous cases.

When the attacks of intermittent or neuralgia are either very

irregular or of long standing, the power of medicine is very limited in breaking the chain of morbid action. A single bloodletting has often rendered a recent intermittent regular, though previously irregular; and Dr. M. suggests, but without having experience on the point, a similar experiment in irregular neuralgia, while he condemns the practice of repeated depletion. Mercury, pushed so as to affect the mouth, will sometimes render agues amenable to tonics, though previously rebellious. The same may be tried in the neuralgiæ, since in both classes the glandular viscera are often deranged, and the mercury acts beneficially in correcting such disorders. But as the greater number of cases which present themselves are now chronic, and consequently inveterate, probably from the wrong treatment employed when they were recent, so the cures will be comparatively few, however judicious the remedies. It is not until the old cases shall have died off, and a generation of the same diseases has arisen under the improved practice, that a fair trial can be given to the latter.

One great cause of neuralgia becoming chronic, is the caprice or impatience of the afflicted. Anxious for a speedy cure, they are led away in succession by name after name, and recommendation after recommendation; the consequence of which is, that no steady system is pursued, and no cure effected. The work, half done by one, is reversed by another, till at length the patient is rendered sceptical as to the skill of the practitioner or the potency of the medicine.

But the paramount object is to

withdraw the patient, if possible, from the operation of the primary causes of the disease. On this account, the locality of his residence should be carefully examined, according to the rules which have been already laid down by the author in his Treatise on Malaria, and of which the reader will find ample analyses in this Journal. Without such removal from the sphere of the causes, no permanent cure need be expected. The dread of moisture should ever be in the patient's mind,—he should remove to a dry, but not to a cold situation, since cold itself is an exciting cause. The change of scene and air resulting from travelling alone, would often effect the cure, both in agues and the neuralgia.

“What remains as to the general treatment, relates to diet. As in intermittent, whether recent or chronic, I have no hesitation in saying that the usual full diet of persons in health, with a rational use of wine, forms an essential aid to the cure, and that it has often proved a cure in itself, when used as replacing the opposite and pernicious system. But I shall not enlarge on this; as the evils arising from low diet are involved in those belonging to the debilitating practice on which, even after all that I have said, I must offer some additional remarks hereafter.” 386.

Of the local remedies for neuralgia we need say but little. Dr. M., like Dr. Heberden, found blisters to aggravate the pain when placed near the nerve affected. What has been called a perpetual blister is still worse, as proving “almost always a positive aggravation, not only of the

local disease itself, but of the general irritation and disorder of the system.”

Dr. McCulloch's *local* treatment of this disease, which is given somewhat in detail, will be concluded in our number for next week.

HOSPITAL REPORTS.

Cases of Compound and Complicated Fracture, requiring Amputation. Reported for this Journal from the Massachusetts General Hospital.

CASE 1st.

MAY {29th, 1829.—Mr. H. M., aged 23, a painter, fell about thirty feet from a *scaffolding*,—was taken up in a state of insensibility, and remained so for some hours. Was brought to the Hospital four hours after the accident. Could not then be made to notice without much effort;—he would scream out when moved suddenly.

On examination, the left *femur* was found fractured into several parts at its lower extremity. Some portions of the bone had been forced through the soft parts, accompanied by considerable hemorrhage. The right wrist was much swollen, and very painful on motion. About the left eye and extending to the temple, was considerable ecchymosis. No other marks of injury could be found about the head. The trunk appeared very well. On each leg was a large and old ulcer. The patient was exceedingly stupid, and much inclined to sleep: he would start suddenly at times, as if altogether unconscious of *action* or *situation*. Pulse small and feeble; scarcely felt at the wrist; extremities cold; a sallow pale-

ness was over the whole body. Endeavors were made to retain the bone in a comfortable situation. Wine, brandy, and water, were freely administered. Habits intemperate.

30th.—Reaction began to take place about 8, P. M., yesterday. Was very restless during the night, requiring force to keep him in bed. Took lemonade, water, &c., during the night. This morning, pulse full, quick, but not strong. Took a little gruel. At 11, A. M., *Consulting Surgeons* convened, and advised immediate amputation. Preparations were made, and in a very short time the patient was ready in the theatre for operation. He seemed to be unconscious of what was to be done, and inclined to sleep.

Operation by Dr. Warren.

The artery was compressed in the groin, and the thigh amputated by the circular operation. Two ligatures were applied, and the patient removed to be dressed in his ward. Lost but very little blood.

31st.—No after-hemorrhage from the wound. Stump was dressed with adhesive straps, &c., and has remained well. Pulse quick, and somewhat full; was very restless during the night; discharge of urine involuntary, accompanied with excruciating pain, but not tinged with blood; bowels costive; mind wandering at times; some involuntary motion of the muscles about the face; eyes wild.

R. Infus. Sem. Lin. ʒvi.
Spts. Æth. Nitrosi, ʒi. M. rep.
quaq. hor. 2da.
Enema Commune.

June 1st.—One dejection yesterday after enema; dysuria con-

tinues; slept but little last night; in almost constant motion, throwing himself from one side of the bed to the other.

2d.—Has had no dejection since the 31st of May. Wound dressed to-day; ligature came away; no hemorrhage; discharge thin and fœtid; general want of action. Enema commune to-day.

3d.—Pulse small; very weak; appetite wanting; disposed to be comatose; very restless at times; dysuria less. May have two glasses of wine daily.

R. Quin. Sulph. gr. ij., in Pil. quaq. hor. 2da.

7th.—Very restless; delirium at times; diarrhœa since yesterday. Omit pill. Wine whey three gills, three times daily.

R. Tr. Opii, gtt. xv. Ev. hr. till diarrhœa be checked.

8th.—Wound shows no great disposition to heal; diarrhœa ceased; now pain in the abdomen; dysuria continues to annoy at times. Omit opium, and apply fomentations over the bowels.

10th.—Better: mind less wandering; less disposed to sleep; pain in the abdomen subsided; wound appears more healthy.

11th.—No dejection.

R. Tr. Rhei, ʒss. statim.

13th.—Improving in all respects. Omit Spts. Æth. Nitrosi.

14th.—Answers questions understandingly. May have milk porridge.

15th.—Appetite good; stomach and bowels regular; wound healing.

17th.—May have broth.

18th.—Pulse 90; wound discharges much.

R. Pulv. Cinch. ʒi.

Tr. Ejusdem, ʒss. M. ter in dies.

22d.—Costive; complains much of the right wrist.

R. Tr. Rhei, 3ss. every four hours.

23d.—Six or seven dejections, with relief. Opiate if needed.

24th.—Discharge from the wound much diminished; yesterday P. M., had a severe chill, with nausea; got an emetic, and vomited much foul matter; tongue still coated. Omit Tr. Cinch. and bark; take wine whey, wine and water. Drink balm tea.

25th.—Wound nearly closed, but discharge scanty, flaky, and very foetid; surface of the wound smooth, and covered with a substance like coagulated albumen. Apply poultice at night.

26th.—Discharge much more copious, but exceedingly foetid and flocculent. Complains much of pain and stiffness in the shoulder. Wash the wound with Solution of Chloride of Lime.

29th.—Right wrist very painful; much swollen; appetite gone; emaciation great. Fomentation of bitter herbs to the wrist.

30th.—Fails rapidly.

Brandy, 3ss. every four hours.

July 4th.—Mind wandering; great tremor of the hands; convulsive twitching of the muscles of the face.

6th.—Gradually sinking.

9th.—Died. On examination of the wrist, a large quantity of pus issued; perhaps 3viij. The capsular ligament of the wrist was found ruptured behind; the radius and ulna were thrust backward. The os scaphoides and os cuneiforme were broken in halves; a small portion separated from the os lunare, and the styloid process from the ulna. The fragments were disjoined from the

radius and driven forward, lying before the remaining halves of the bones. The whole appearance was as if a blow with an instrument half an inch in width, had been directed transversely across the wrist.

The remaining leg lay upon the side with the toes pointed inwards, and could not be reduced; appearing as if dislocated at the hip joint. Being examined as to this, the head of the bone was found in its place, the round ligament in an eroded, ulcerated state, and the capsular ligament filled with pus.

CASE 2d.

May 15th, 1829.—James Domsley, an Irish laborer, aged 27, while scuffling with his comrades, tripped and fell among some timber that was near at hand. He was taken up and brought to the Hospital immediately, where he was examined. The tibia was found fractured nearly transversely, about six inches below its head, and quite a large opening through the soft parts communicating with the fractured ends of the bone. The hemorrhage at the wound was considerable. The fibula was not broken. The patient was very stout and muscular, constantly in the habit of using ardent spirits very freely. The limb was placed and supported upon a pillow; the hemorrhage soon ceased, and an evaporating lotion was applied. *Internally* was ordered the following:—

R. Spt. Æth. Nitrosi, 3ss.

Tr. Opii, 3ij. M.

Cujus, gtt. xxx. Sum. quaq. hor. tertia.

16th.—Was very restless fore part of the night; dragged the

limb out of place, and produced bleeding; toward morning became more quiet. Pulse 84 and full; vessels of conjunctivæ loaded.

R. Sol. Mag. Sulph. ʒiv. Si opus sit, dos. repetet.

12th.—Patient quiet; slight hemorrhage yesterday P.M.; cathartic operated.

20th.—Leg very much inflamed, and covered with phlyctænæ about the wound. Mind wandering; constant motion and muttering in sleep.

Applic. parti affect. Hirud. No. xx. postea cataplasma commune, et sæpe repetetur.

May have brandy and water, with Tr. Opii pro re nata.

24th.—Constitutional symptoms less urgent; inflammation subsided; discharge rather copious from the wound, thin and bloody; ulceration extending. Patient drinks much; perspires freely; has no appetite; pulse frequent and feeble; bowels costive.

R. Ol. Ricini,

Tr. Rhei, aa ʒss. M. post operat.

R. Ammon. Carbonat. gr. v., et rep. quaq. hora quarta.

Continue brandy and laudanum as circumstances may require.

27th.—Sinking: yesterday, copious flow of arterial blood from the wound; was arrested by compression of the femoral artery; mind rather more tranquil. Continue stimulants and antispasmodics.

29th.—No hemorrhage since the 26th; seems a little more comfortable; mind more active and less confused; less muttering in sleep; large slough separating from around the old wound.

31st.—Yesterday slough came away; copious hemorrhage fol-

lowed; patient has sunk in consequence; pulse 104 and feeble; takes but little nourishment.

June 2d.—A consultation of the Hospital Surgeons was held today, and amputation advised as the only possible course that promised anything to the patient. Has had no more bleeding; continues stimulants, &c., with broth and beef-tea.

3d.—*Operation by Dr. Otis*, at 5, P. M.—The artery was efficiently compressed at the groin, and the limb removed from above the knee by the circular mode of operating. Two ligatures were applied, and not more than three ounces of blood lost during the whole operation. The wound was dressed in the usual manner, and no hemorrhage followed.—At 7, P. M., was visited. Patient seemed very stupid, and scarcely could be aroused; was bathed in a clammy sweat; hands cold; pulse very feeble at the wrists. Drank some warm brandy and water. Efforts were made to produce reaction in the system, but without effect; he continued to sink quite gradually, and at 9, P. M., expired.

The limb, after it was removed, was examined. A large quantity of purulent matter was found imbedded among the muscles; the soft parts, for a considerable distance, were clearly separated from the bone. The body was examined post-mortem, and no marks of disease found.

CEDEMA OF THE GLOTTIS

Successfully treated at the Hospital at Nantes.

PETER BURGOIN, aged 46 years, entered the Hospital of Nantes on the 29th of December. Four days pre-

viously he had been exposed to a current of cold air, while in a state of perspiration, soon after which he was seized with sore throat and difficulty of swallowing, followed by a sense of burning heat along the trachea, and constant cough. The oppression, difficulty of breathing, glairy expectoration, &c., increased, and when he entered the hospital he was in a very dangerous condition,—each inspiration being effected with great labor. His face was of a violet color,—pulse hard and full. The alum insufflation employed twice.

[See below.] It caused some irritation at first, and much cough, during which he inhaled with considerable difficulty. Afterwards the breathing became more easy,—he was nearly seven hours without coughing, and the night was passed in comparative tranquillity. The insufflation was practised every day till the disease yielded. Very few other medicines were employed,—none of any efficiency. Expectoration came on about the fourth day after he was received, and then the symptoms became much mitigated.

SKETCHES OF PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

ALUM INSUFFLATION.

THE insufflation of finely powdered alum is recommended by Laennec as having been very successful in *Angina Pellicularis*. This name has been recently given to all those inflammations about the throat, in which false membranes, as they are commonly called, are thrown out, so as to diminish the calibre of any of the air passages. Even in Cynanche Tonsillaris, the practice recommended is capable of subduing the disease more speedily than any other.

NOTICES IN PATHOLOGY.

UNDER this head, four interesting cases are related by Dr. Geo. B. Wood, in the last North American Journal. In the first, the patient, an active intelligent boy, about three years of age, was attacked somewhat suddenly with a partial paralysis of the lower extremities, accompanied with some anomalous symptoms. On attempting to walk, he moved forward with a tottering step, in a di-

rection constantly inclining toward the left side, for a short distance, and then fell. In the sitting or standing posture, his head had a similar inclination to the left shoulder. His intellect was somewhat impaired, and his sense of hearing less acute than usual. These circumstances, and the recollection of M. Homens' observations in regard to cerebral affections, directed the suspicions of Dr. W. to the cerebellum. These were confirmed in the course of the next day by the patient complaining of severe pain behind the left ear. Recourse was immediately had to local bleeding, blistering, &c., and in three days afterward the boy recovered.

The second case affords an example of the consequences which follow upon repelled eruptions. A gentleman, æt. 70, was attacked with erysipelas of the face, which extended downward so as to cover a considerable portion of the anterior part of the chest. The part thus affected

was treated with solution of corrosive sublimate, which at once relieved the erysipelatous inflammation, but was followed by swelling and induration on the left side, and symptoms of prostration. A blister was applied to the breast and tonics administered, but without avail; the patient died on the fourth day.

The third and fourth were cases of cerebral disorder; the first with symptoms resembling apoplexy, the last of a convulsive character,—both induced by gastric oppression, and relieved principally by vomiting.

THE FETAL CIRCULATION.

DR. J. R. COXE, in the same Journal, maintains the doctrine of a direct communication between the uterus and the placenta, by means of the bloodvessels, without any intermediate structure. This doctrine is supported by many distinguished anatomists, some of whom,—viz., Cooper, Vieussens, and Haller,—have confirmed it, as they think, by the aid of injections. Similar injections were attempted by Dr. Monro, who reports them as having proved unsuccessful. Dr. C. considers the question as interesting in a physiological point of view, though practically unimportant.

A POWERFUL DISCUTIENT.

A YOUNG woman applied to the Surgeon of St. George's Hospital to have a tumor taken from her. It was hard, encysted, the size of a marble or larger, and situated at the outer corner of the right eyelid and superciliary ridge of the frontal bone. It had existed about three months, and increased rapidly.

The morning of the day on which it was to have been extracted, she accidentally received a violent blow on it, and at noon it was found soft, fluctuating, free of pain, and nearly dispersed. She was directed to wait a fortnight and see the result of this accident, which was doubtless a perfect cure, since she did not after make her appearance.—May not the Surgeon derive a practical lesson from this case? Does it not involve a principle which has given a certain degree and kind of reputation to quacks and professed bonesetters and callus breakers?

STEM OF A TOBACCO-PIPE EXTRACTED FROM THE URETHRA AND BLADDER.

A CASE is recorded in the London Medical Gazette, of a person 54 years of age, who had been subject for years to an occasional stoppage in the urinary passage, after exposure to cold, &c. One night as the fit came on him in a state of intoxication, he being unable to find his catheter, seized a common tobacco-pipe and passed the stem into the bladder. The urine flowed freely through it, and he was relieved. On withdrawing the pipe, it broke, and about four inches of the stem remained in the urethra. Much pain and tension was experienced in the perineum; and on introducing the finger per ano, the stem was felt projecting into the bladder.

All attempts to remove this body by forceps were unavailing, and it was at last withdrawn through a hole cut into the urethra anterior to the bulb. The wound healed readily, and no bad consequences ensued.

ISCHURIA

In which Urine was passed by the Umbilicus.

UNDER this title is reported, in the London Medical and Physical Journal, a singular case, which occurred in the Worcester Infirmary, in a female patient, aged twenty-three. In consequence of exposure to cold during menstruation, symptoms of abdominal inflammation came on, together with suppression of urine. For eighteen days no water was passed by the natural efforts, and the quantity secreted seemed gradually to diminish, until none could be obtained by the catheter. At this time a bloody discharge appeared at the umbilicus, which afforded some relief. On the 23d day urine began to be discharged at the umbilical outlet, but ceased to be so on the 26th. Five days after, six ounces of urine were drawn off by the catheter; and in an hour, two quarts of the same appearance gushed from the umbilicus. This discharge now continued for three days, and then ceased. During the same time, no water in the mean while being passed through the urethra. On the 38th day, two quarts of water flowed from the umbilicus, and this was followed by instant relief. For eight days there was little variation; no urine could be obtained from the urethra, but it passed daily from the umbilicus. At length, on the 46th day, four ounces of urine were drawn from the bladder. The discharge by the urethra now daily increased, and that from the umbilicus lessened. There was

also a gradual amelioration of the symptoms; except that vomiting, which she had had from the beginning, still continued obstinate. The bladder was regularly emptied by the catheter for more than a month, after which time she began to pass some urine, and the power over the organ was gradually restored. She slowly recovered her general health, and menstruation was reestablished.

This remarkable and interesting case presents several subjects for physiological and pathological investigation. The great point to be determined, however, is, by what means the urine was conveyed to the umbilical orifice. Did the urachus become a pervious canal, and permit the water to pass through it from the bladder? or was the fluid secreted in the peritoneal cavity, and an opening made by ulceration in the thinnest portion of its parietes? The circumstance of the bladder being found empty for so long a period before the vicarious discharge, renders the former supposition very improbable. We must therefore suppose it to have been a real metastasis, similar in its nature to those rare cases which have been recorded among the medical curiosities of other countries, and to the remarkable instance which occurred in a neighboring state three years ago,—a case, some account of which may be found in this Journal, Vol. I. No. 3, under the title of *Paruria Erratica*, and which has scarcely yet terminated its progress through the journals of Europe.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1829.

CONVERSATIONS ON THE ANIMAL
ECONOMY.

AMONG the circumstances which distinguish the present age from those which have preceded it, certainly not the least remarkable is the effort which is making to diffuse science among all classes of the community. Those branches of knowledge which formerly were limited to a favored few, have within a few years become, through the medium of lectures and popular publications, to a certain degree attainable by all. A large class of works tending to this object, have been written for the avowed purpose of instructing children, but in a manner calculated to render them highly useful to adults whose attention has not been turned to the subjects of which they severally treat, and to whom it is desirable to obtain some general information on these topics. Thus we have *Conversations on Chemistry*, *Conversations on Political Economy*, *Conversations on Natural Philosophy*, and *Conversations on the Animal Economy*. The last is the title of a work published not long since in London, and which we believe has not been reprinted in this country. Its object is to render the most important facts in physiology familiar to the comprehension of the general reader, whose pursuits have not been of such a nature as to lead him into this sphere of inquiry. A juvenile work it certainly is not; since the subjects of which it treats, and the manner in which they are explained, alike render it unfit for

youthful readers. It is less calculated for a school-book than the analogous work of Paley; while to the general reader, and to young persons who have acquired some previous education, it will prove a much more agreeable and more useful work. As is the case with many works of the class, it is a conversation only in name; the individuality of the personages is sacrificed to the animation of the dialogue, and the junior speakers make suggestions and propose solutions of difficult points, with a degree of ingenuity which, even in an adult ignorant of the subject, would be somewhat marvellous.

The work is divided into twenty conversations; in the course of which are considered the integuments of the human body; the varieties of mankind; the bones; the muscles; the brain and nerves; the organs of sense; the digestive function; circulation; respiration; animal heat; growth and decay. All these subjects are treated in a manner extremely suitable to the purpose aimed at, in language divested as much as possible of technical terms, and wholly free from anything which could wear even the semblance of indelicacy.

In the conversation on the varieties of the race, is introduced the much agitated question as to the cause of the great diversity among mankind, springing, as we suppose them to have done, from a single pair. This question is so involved with the first principles of religious

faith, that we wish the author, in a work designed for a class of readers greatly exposed to the influence of sceptical doctrines, had made a point of placing the answer on clearer and more decided ground. According to the author, any peculiarity of form which is born with an individual, is capable of being transmitted to his offspring; but those which are produced by art or accident, are limited to the individual himself, and do not become hereditary. In proof of this last position, it is mentioned that the flattening of the heads among the Caribs, and the contraction of the feet among the Chinese, require to be repeated on every individual in order that the fashion may be kept up. Both the facts and the inference, however, are denied by some of the most distinguished physiologists of the day; while, on the other hand, there are facts equally striking and better authenticated, which lead to a precisely opposite conclusion. Perhaps our author's admiration for Mr. Lawrence led him into too hasty an adoption of his views on this point. At all events, we regard it as unfortunate that, in a work designed for popular use, a question affecting the credibility of revelation should have been discussed, without allowing to the arguments on the side of truth, the degree of preponderance to which they are justly entitled.

Under the head of organs of sense, are noticed the curious views of Dr. Wollaston in regard to the direction of the eyes; and a plate is given in which the same eyes which form part of a devotional head, and seem strongly to express this character,

are made to adapt themselves to the upper part of another face, where they appear at once to have a different direction and to express opposite emotions. Dr. W.'s experiments on this subject have not, we believe, been incorporated into the standard works of the day, and their adoption into the present was, therefore, peculiarly fortunate. We may also mention that under the general subject of the brain and nerves, cranio-logy comes in for its share of attention; and the arguments by which this doctrine has been maintained on the one hand, and attacked on the other, are stated with great clearness and sufficient impartiality. On the whole, we are disposed to think highly of the work as a popular manual, and hope shortly to see it make its appearance in an American edition.

QUACKERY.

WE have understood that there is on foot a petition to the Massachusetts Legislature, for a repeal of the Act by which irregular practitioners of medicine, or in other words Quacks, are deprived of the right of legal process for their fees. We have not seen the paper, and it was merely by accident the report reached us. If it be true, we can find no language strong enough to express our surprise and indignation. Is it possible that an individual who has sense or education enough to draw up a petition, could be found willing so far to degrade himself and human nature, as to engage in so disgraceful a transaction? For hire indeed, some men will do deeds of darkness, when they can be assured their own names

will never come to light;—but is it possible that an individual can be found in this age of the world, so dead to all sense of what he owes to himself, his family, his friends, and society,—so dead to all sense of common decency, as to put his *name* to a petition such as we have alluded to? We cannot believe it possible. If, however, we prove to be in error—if men of common respectability join in this attempt to open the doors of the poor and ignorant to the imposition of the Charlatan and the wretchedness which follows his footsteps, we can assure them, *first*, that in no civilized country is there a legislature weak or wicked enough to grant a petition which thus gives a direct and express sanction to quackery; and *second*, that their own names will be ever after associated with those of the impostors they encourage: the public will ask no further evidence of mental imbecility—no further cause to reject them from its confidence.

Malignant Sore Throat.—Dr. Guimier, a physician of some eminence, residing in the Commune of Vouvray, has published several cases of malignant sore throat, (*angina maligna*), in which the topical application of lunar caustic proved highly beneficial. The tonsils, the uvula, and the pharynx, were covered with membranous concretions of a grey-white or yellow color, and this collection was sometimes so thick and abundant about the larynx, as to impede respiration. The inflammatory action was frequently extended to the membrane lining the windpipe; and previous to the adoption of this mode of treatment, many patients were suffocated by the tenacious collection blocking up the glottis. The hydrochloric acid had been used with

success in a few cases; but Dr. Guimier, after a fair trial, gave the lunar caustic a preference, because the eschar it produced was limited to the part to which it had been applied, while the effect of the acid spread to the contiguous parts, often to a considerable extent. Even when the disease had spread to the internal membrane of the windpipe, Dr. Guimier found the lunar caustic, applied to the tonsils, &c., to produce a very happy effect.—The lunar caustic has been long a favorite topical application with some eminent surgeons of London, in chronic ulceration of the tonsils &c., which frequently follows the continued use of mercury, in affections termed pseudo-syphilitic; and we have frequently witnessed its beneficial effects in such cases, after detergent and alterative gargles, with attention to the general health, had failed to produce any essential benefit.—*Gaz. of Health.*

Malposition of the Kidney.—On examining the body of a man who died of pulmonary consumption, the left kidney was found, after searching for it with much diligence, *at the brim of the pelvis*. It was lying on the psoas muscle, appeared to have no renal capsule, and was twisted round upon itself so that its notch looked outward to the crista of the ilium. From the notch an ureter went out, which turned down over the brim of the pelvis to reach the bladder. The kidney was smaller than the other, and received its supply of blood in part from the external iliac artery, on which it lay.

This is a rare misplacement, and in some surgical operations would have produced much confusion and inconvenience.

REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

The week ending July 25, at noon.

Of apoplexy, 1—accident, 1—childbed, 1—dropsy on the brain, 2—dysentery, 1—dropsy on the chest, 1—drown, 1—intemperance, 1—liver complaint, 1—measles, 5—old age, 1—palsy, 2—suicide, 1—unknown, 3. Males, 11—females, 11. Total, 22.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

THE MEDICAL LECTURES in Harvard University will begin in the Massachusetts Medical College, Mason-street, Boston, the third WEDNESDAY in October next, the 21st, at nine o'clock, A. M. Anatomy and Surgery, by Dr. WARREN. Chemistry, Dr. WEBSTER. Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence, Dr. CHANNING. Materia Medica, Dr. BIGELOW. Theory and Practice of Physic, Dr. JACKSON.

Students attending the Medical Lectures are admitted, *without fee*, to the Surgical Operations and Clinical Practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, during the course.

Aug. 4. W. CHANNING, *Dean*.
eptOct21.

BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

THE Annual Course of LECTURES will commence on the first Thursday in September, and continue fifteen weeks.

Theory and Practice of Physic by H. H. CHILDS, M.D.

Anatomy and Physiology, J. D. WELLS, M.D.

Medical Jurisprudence, S. W. WILLIAMS, M.D.

Theoretical and Operative Surgery, S. WHITE, M.D. and S. P. WHITE, M.D.

Materia Medica, Pharmacy and Obstetrics, C. B. COVENTRY, M.D.

Chemistry, Botany, Mineralogy and Natural Philosophy, C. DEWY, M.D.

Matriculation ticket, \$ 3. Fee for Lectures, \$ 40. Library ticket, \$ 1. Graduation, \$ 15.50. Board, including washing, lodging and room, \$ 1.75 a week.

Pittsfield, July 22, 1829. aug4tsept30

CARTER & HENDEE,

Corner of Washington and School Streets,

HAVE recently published and for sale, LECTURES ON ANATOMY, SURGERY AND PATHOLOGY, including Observations on the Nature and Treatment of Local Diseases—delivered at St.

Bartholomew's Hospital, by JOHN ABERNETHY, F.R.S.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The estimation in which the opinions of the celebrated teacher in the School of St. Bartholomew's is held, must render the present volumes invaluable to the student, while it will equally serve as a work of reference to the elder branches of the profession, containing, as it does, the views and opinions of one whose life has been spent in instruction, and whose talents and acquirements are no less admired than respected.

Nor is the value of the volume confined either to the medical *tyro* or the more experienced practitioner. The popular reader, from the plain, lucid and colloquial style of the Lectures, will derive both pleasure and instruction from the perusal, while the general contents yield a body of information not to be met with in works of this description, and which will render it in families a book of familiar consultation and reference.

July 28.

TURNER'S CHEMISTRY,—NEW EDITION.

JUST published, and for sale, by CARTER & HENDEE,—Elements of Chemistry, including recent Discoveries and Doctrines of the Science. By EDWARD TURNER, M.D. F.R.S.E. Second American Edition.

COTTONS & BARNARD have for sale, "An Inquiry concerning that disturbed state of the vital functions usually denominated Constitutional Irritation. By Benjamin Travers, F.R.S., senior Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, President of the Hunterian Society of London, &c. &c."

NEW LONDON WORK.

JUST received, by CARTER & HENDEE, corner of Washington and School streets, A Chemical Catechism; in which the Elements of Chemistry, with the recent discoveries in the Science, are clearly and fully explained. Illustrated by Notes, Engravings and Tables, and containing an Appendix of select Experiments, &c. By THOMAS GRAHAM, M.D. Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, &c. &c.

C. & H. have also just received, Elements of Chemistry. By ANDREW FYFE, M.D. F.R.S.E.

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